

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 TRSE-00 /060 W

----- 072640

R 091446Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5401

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 2201

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJECT: LEONARD AND BERNADETTE MOSALA'S DETENTION

1. CONGENOFFS MET WITH LEONARD MOSALA UPON RELEASE FROM DETENTION AND FOUND HIM IN GOOD SPIRITS, ALTHOUGH TIRED FROM EXPERIENCE. WIFE BERNADETTE ALSO IN GOOD CONDITION BUT STILL SUFFERING MENTAL STRAIN.

2. MOSALAS WERE BOTH DETAINED IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND STATED THAT THEY WERE EXAMINED BY DOCTORS AND LAWYERS WHILE IN CONFINEMENT. THEY WERE NOT MISTREATED OTHER THAN SUBJECTED TO INTENSIVE QUESTIONING.

3. MOSALA STATED DETENTION WAS MOTIVATED BY ALLEGATIONS HE AND WIFE WERE INVOLVED IN PRINTING SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE AND TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO BOTSWANA FOR MILITARY TRAINING. HE CLAIMS POLICE ACKNOWLEDGED CHARGES WERE BASED ON FLIMSY TESTIMONY FROM UNRELIABLE INFORMERS AND HE WAS ASSURED THAT HE WOULD BE RELEASED SOON AFTER HIS ARREST. HE DID HOWEVER, HAVE ANC LITERATURE IN HIS HOME. MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER HAD HIM BROUGHT TO PRETORIA MONDAY FOR FOR INTERVIEW AND MOSALA STATES THAT WHILE KRUGER ORDERED THE MOSALAS IMMEDIATE RELEASE, HE ALSO WARNED THAT MRS MOSALA FACED IMMEDIATE BANNING IF SHE DID NOT RESIGN FROM SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. (SACC).

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WHILE DECISION WAS A PAINFUL ONE, THE MOSALAS HAVE AGREED THAT SHE

WILL RELINQUISH HER POSITION WITH SACC BY END OF MONTH.

4. MOSALA ATTRIBUTED EARLY RELEASE TO POSSIBILITY THAT IBM HAD INTERCEDED ON HIS BEHALF, INQUIRIES FROM PRP MP'S, AND POSSIBILITY OF INTEREST AND MORAL SUPPORT OF YOUR (US) GOVERNMENT."

5. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF DETENTION, MOSALA SEES HIS STATUS BOTH ENHANCED AND DAMAGED AMONG PEERS. HE AND BERNADETTE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT PEOPLE WILL FEAR BEING ARRESTED IF IN CONTACT WITH THEM, YET STRONGLY FEELS A POLITICIAN MUST BE WILLING TO SPEND TIME IN JAIL FOR HIS VIEWS AND HE PERHAPS NOW CAN IDENTIFY BETTER WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED. MOSALA ALSO PLANNING ON RESIGNING FROM SOWETO UBC, NOT BECAUSE OF DETENTION BUT BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CONFLICT WITH DAVID THEBAHALI, CHAIRMAN SOWETO UBC (REPORTED SEPTEL).
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